

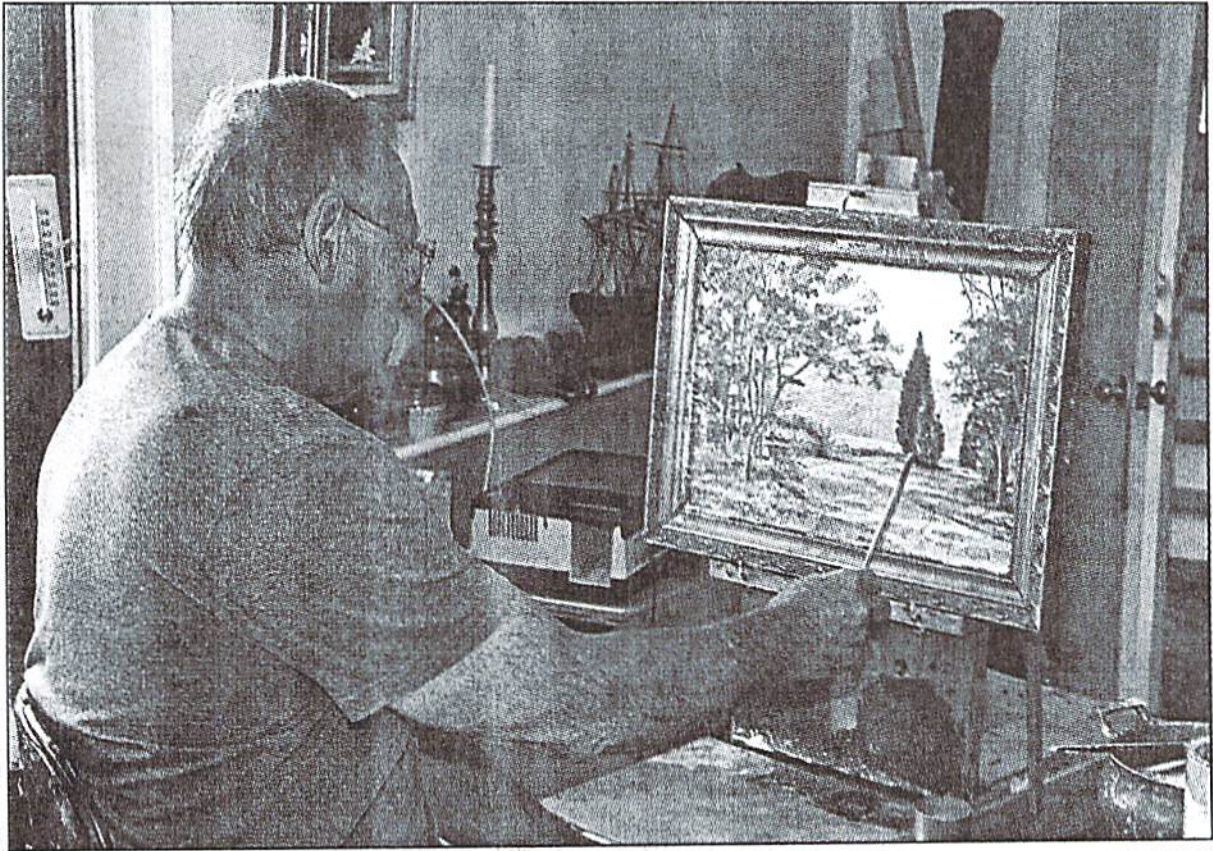
Arts

ARTIST PROFILE

Bernard Korites

ARTISTS ✓

PAINTER



PHOTOS/DAVE MACCAFERRI

Bernie Korites at work in his Duxbury studio.

When did you first become serious about art?

I've always had an interest in art. I dabbled with painting over the years but with all the other commitments never had time to pursue it. It's been only the past 15 years or so that I've had the opportunity to paint seriously.

What medium do you work in? Why?

I prefer oils because my style is fairly detailed and oils are better suited for that. Oil paintings can also be very luminous when done right. Besides, I like the smell of turpentine.

Do you make a living as an artist?

No, I do not. For most of my professional life I have been a writer of math and computer books for the academic world, and I still continue to do that. I enjoy putting down the pen for a while and taking up the brush. Oddly enough, I find that the two activities compliment one another; painting stimulates creativity in my writing and writing puts a touch of mathematical structure and logic in my paintings.

What artists or artworks inspired you?

-While I have always liked the impressionists Monet, Pissarro and Cezanne, I have come to appreciate the more modern touch of the post-impressionist Seurat, especially his innovative use of color and the structure and composition he put back into painting. My favorite, though, is an obscure English painter by the name of Edward Seago, a true visual poet.

Describe your creative process.

When I see or think of something that strikes me in an emotional way, I get the urge to paint it. Most of those things happen to be landscapes. Years ago I painted outdoors but I found I was spending a lot of time back in the studio adjusting things. I like to be creative in my work and it takes time to think and contemplate, a difficult thing



The scene for Bernie Korites latest painting is his own driveway.

to do outdoors when the light is changing by the minute. So now I paint almost exclusively in the studio. Usually I start off with a rough paper sketch that I transfer to canvas. This can be a real scene, something I've made up, or a combination of the two. Then I paint it, moving things around, changing colors etc until I get it the way I like it. The process is actually a bit like sculpting. I mould and push the pigments into place much as a sculptor pushes and forms clay. It's a time consuming process but it gives good results since bits of colors of the various paint layers shine through giving the work a harmonious luminosity.

If someone is looking at one of your works, what feelings, thoughts or ideas do you want them to have?

I want them to be struck in an emotional way, which I believe is the true purpose of art. I also want them to feel the mood and atmosphere of the scene, the stillness, the excitement or the mystery, whatever it was that attracted me to the scene in the first place.

Finish the following sentence: "Art is..."

... A vehicle by which an artist conveys to a viewer something he sees on an emotional level. When I hang a painting on a wall I would like to say to the viewer "this is what I see..."

Where can we find your paintings?

I offer affordable prints of many of my paintings. These, as well as my original oils, can be seen at my studio in Duxbury and on my website www.korites.com.

See a slide show of
Bernie Korites work at

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